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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,602	06/22/2001	Frederic Bauchot	FR920000050US1	7284

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IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT. IQOA/BLDG. 040-3
1701 NORTTH STREET
ENDICOTT,, NY 13760

EXAMINER	
PAULA, CESAR B	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/887,602	BAUCHOT, FREDERIC	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CESAR B. PAULA	2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 November 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on 11/2/2004.

This action is made Final.

2. In the amendment, claims 11-12 have been added. Claims 1-12 are pending in the case. Claims 1, and 12 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), and based on application # 480096.7 filed with the EPO on 10/24/2000, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

4. The drawings filed on 6/22/2001 have been approved by the examiner.

Claim Objections

5. Appropriate corrections have been made to claims 4, and 8. Therefore, the objections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Appropriate corrections have been made to claim 1. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn.

7. Appropriate corrections have been made to claim 5. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn.

8. Appropriate corrections have been made to claims 7-8. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn.

9. Appropriate corrections have been made to claim 10. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-10 remain, and claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al, hereinafter Anderson (Pat.# 5,463,724, 10/31/1995), in view of Barnes, "10 Minute Guide to Windows 3.1", Alpha, 1992, pp.60-64.

Regarding independent claim 1, Anderson discloses the grouping of a page of cells—*defining a set ranges of cells*—for changing the information or content of multiple pages simultaneously, by replicating this information automatically to the other group of cells in the other pages. The pages are a copy of the page shown in fig.2C. The cells have content, such as "Loan amount, %", etc. The group of cells have different addresses relative to the pages where the cell groups are found—*at least two of said ranges having different relative addresses* (col.9, lines 61-col.10, lines 31, and col.7, lines 62-col.8, line 10, fig. 4G-4J). Therefore, by changing the content in one cell of the group the content of the whole group is also changed. The page of cells have the same size, since they're a carbon copy of each other.

Moreover, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of information changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*automatically performing a self-replication operation* (col.10, lines 16-31, col.11, lines 20-30, fig. 4H-J). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is passed to every page in the group—*determining the set of ranges to which the changed range of cells belongs to, and identifying the ranges or* pages *of cells belonging to said set* or grouping

Moreover, Anderson fails to explicitly disclose: *copying the changed range of cells onto a buffer, and pasting the content of the buffer in each of the identified range of cells belonging to said set.* However, Barnes teaches the copying of information into a clipboard--*buffer*. This information is then pasted from the clipboard into a specified location (page 60, lines 14-20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Anderson, and Barnes and copy the block of cells into the clipboard, because Barnes

teaches above the copying of information from an original location to a second location without disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving the time needed to manually inputting the same information several times.

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses creating groups of spreadsheet pages, and including the same page in more than one group—*adding a new range of cells to said ranges of cells* (col.9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-31).

In addition, Anderson discloses the entering of data in a spreadsheet page cell located in one group, and ending the entry with a "CTRL-Enter" command—*selecting a new range of cells*--. The entry of the command causes the propagation of entered data to other group of pages—*creating a link between the new range of cells with at least one range of cells with at least one range of cells belonging to said set of ranges of cells* (col. 10, lines 18-31).

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*performing a persistent* (not temporary) *copy operation* (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is passed to every page in the group—*selecting a first range of cells.*

In addition, Anderson discloses the entering of data in a spreadsheet page cell located in one group, and ending the entry with a "CTRL-Enter" command. The entry of the command causes the propagation of entered data to other group of pages—*creating a link between each other range of cells and the first range of cells* (col. 10, lines 18-31).

Furthermore, Anderson fails to explicitly disclose: *copying onto a buffer the selected first range of cells, and persistent pasting the content onto each other selected range of cells.* However, Barnes teaches the copying of information into a clipboard--*buffer*. This information is then pasted from the clipboard into a specified location (page 60, lines 14-20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Anderson, and Barnes and copy the block of cells into the clipboard, because Barnes teaches above the copying of information from an original location to a second location without disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving the time needed to manually inputting the same information several times.

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 3, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*invoking a persistent* (not temporary) *copy and paste command operation* (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is copied and pasted to every page in the group.

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the storing in a spreadsheet(s) of marks for identifying a spreadsheet page(s), such as A1 to C4—*table name*-- of page A, which are used for addressing block of cells in a spreadsheet page—*creating a link in said table between the name of the set and said means for identifying each range of cells* (col.10, lines 16-31, and fig.2C).

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the annotation of spreadsheet groups—*associating the ranges of cells with set dependent display attributes,* such as annotations (col.10, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 5, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages. A user inputs selects, and inputs data into a cell, such as "Large Ceaser Food cost" (fig.4G, B4)—*set dependent value*, which depends on information in this page, in a spreadsheet page. Once data entry is completed, the data is copied a pastedto other pages which were grouped with the entry page in this group—*associating a first variable with said set of ranges of cells* or pages in the group — (col.10, lines 1-31).

Furthermore, Anderson teaches the display of notebook pages according with certain settable display properties—*displaying the ranges with display attributes according to the value of said first variable* (col.14, lines 1-67)

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 4, Anderson discloses using an inspector for determining the various properties of a page or block of cells—*determining current attributes of said range of cells* (col.13, line 45-col.14, line67).

Moreover, Anderson teaches the setting, and changing of page, and block of cells properties changing the display format of the page or block of cells, which are stored in the page or table—*storing in said table said current attributes and associating in said table the range of cells with current attributes* (col.13, line 45-col.14, line67, fig.8A).

Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 7, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages. A user inputs selects, and inputs data into a cell, such as "Tossed Food cost" (fig.4G, B4)—*second variable with each range of cells and setting said second variable to a value associated with said current attributes* of the pages they are displayed on, in a spreadsheet page — (col.10, lines 1-31).

Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 7, Anderson discloses the cutting or deleting of blocks of cells, and displaying the edited spreadsheet —*removing a range of cells, retrieving the current attributes, and displaying said current display attributes*— (col.10, lines 58-col.11, line20, fig.4G-I).

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 5, Anderson discloses the storing in a spreadsheet(s) of marks for identifying a spreadsheet page(s), such as A1 to C4—*table name--* of page A, which are used for addressing block of cells in a spreadsheet page—*creating a link in said table between the name of the set and said means for identifying each range of cells* (col.10, lines 16-31, and fig.2C). In other words the identification makes use of the addresses of the cell blocks.

Claim 12 is directed towards a software method equivalent to the steps of claim 1, and therefore is similarly rejected.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 8/6/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claim 1, the Applicant explains that the claims should be allowable based on the amendment where the set of ranges of cell contain different relative addresses (page 12, lines 16-21). The Examiner disagrees, because Anderson discloses the grouping of a page of cells—*defining a set ranges of cells*—for changing the information or content of multiple pages simultaneously, by replicating this information automatically to the other group of cells in the other pages. The pages are a copy of the page shown in fig.2C. The cells have content, such as "Loan amount, %", etc. The group of cells have different addresses relative to the pages where the cell groups are found—*at least two of said ranges having different relative addresses* (col.9, lines 61-col.10, lines 31, and col.7, lines 62-col.8, line 10, fig. 4G-4J).

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

I. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (571) 272-4128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on (571) 272-4124. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

- **(703) 703-872-9306,** (for **all** Formal communications intended for entry)

2/18/05

CESAR B PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 2178